

* * * Domestic Export Program * * *

Sec. 8. DOMESTIC MARKET ACCESS PROGRAM FOR VERMONT

AGRICULTURE AND FOREST PRODUCTS

(a) The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets, in collaboration with the Agency of Commerce and Community Development and the Chief Marketing Officer, shall create a Domestic Export Program Pilot Project within the “Made in Vermont” designation program, the purpose of which shall be to:

(1) connect Vermont producers with brokers, buyers, and distributors in other U.S. state and regional markets,

(2) provide technical and marketing assistance to Vermont producers to convert these connections into increased sales and sustainable commercial relationships; and

(3) provide one-time matching grants of up to \$2,000.00 per business to attend trade shows and similar events to expand producers’ market presence in other U.S. states.

(b) There is appropriated in Fiscal Year 2015 from the General Fund to the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets the amount of \$75,000.00 to implement the provisions of this section.

(c) The Secretary shall collect data on the activities and outcomes of the pilot project authorized under this section and shall report his or her findings and recommendations for further action on or before January 15, 2015, to the House Committees on Agriculture and on Commerce and Economic Development and to the Senate Committees on Agriculture and on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.